

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, April 30, 2004

NEW PSA STRUCTURE DESIGNED TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY POLICING

With the MPDC restructuring its Police Service Areas (PSAs) beginning May 2, 2004, Chief Ramsey said residents and police officers have an excellent opportunity to form stronger partnerships for combating neighborhood crime and disorder problems. Ramsey said the PSA restructuring is designed to enhance police services and strengthen police-community partnerships by more closely aligning the PSAs with the natural boundaries of DC neighborhoods and by providing the PSAs with the resources and staffing flexibility needed to fight crime more effectively at the neighborhood level. The new system reduces the number of PSAs from 83 to 44, thus creating new boundaries for every PSA. The Department will retain seven police districts, although the boundaries of some districts—1D, 3D, 4D and 5D, in particular—are changing. The Chief said the new system should serve to enhance police-community partnerships by keeping neighborhoods intact and not dividing them among two or more PSAs, as is the case right now in Adams Morgan and other communities. As a result, the MPDC hopes that more residents will get involved in PSA meetings, citizen patrols, problem-solving groups and other community policing activities. The PSA restructuring plan was developed following nearly a year of public discussion and a 60-day review by the DC Council.

① For details on the PSA restructuring plan, including maps showing the new PSA and police district boundaries and staffing levels, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm>

① Many PSAs will be getting new lieutenants in charge of the PSA team. These new assignments will be posted on the "District Rosters" in each of the police district pages on the MPDC website.

① There are many ways for residents and community groups to get involved in the MPDC's "Policing for Prevention" strategy of community policing. For details, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/involved.shtm>

TWENTY-TWO NEW OFFICERS HITTING THE STREETS

The newly restructured PSA system will have the support of 22 new Metropolitan Police officers. The officers are hitting the streets of DC neighborhoods after being sworn by Chief Ramsey during graduation ceremonies on April 30. Prior to receiving their badges, the 22 new officers completed approximately 24 weeks of academic, physical and tactical training at the MPDC's Maurice T. Turner Jr., Institute of Police Science. All 22 of the new officers are being assigned to uniformed neighborhood PSA patrols in various police districts. Friday's graduation ceremony, held at the Department of the Interior in Northwest DC, was one of several officer graduations taking place this year, as the MPDC continues to increase its sworn strength from 3,600 last year to 3,800 by the end of fiscal year 2004. Mayor Williams's proposed budget for FY05 includes funds to maintain the MPDC's sworn strength at 3,800 and to further increase the number of officers in the community by "civilianizing" 83 administrative and support positions that are currently held by sworn police officers.

① To learn more about career opportunities in the MPDC, and to apply online, visit:
<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm>

① For a summary of the MPDC's proposed budget for FY05, see Chief Ramsey's recent testimony before the DC Council:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2004/03/033004.shtm>

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK TO BRING THOUSANDS TO DC TO HONOR OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Thousands of police officers and other supporters from across the country will be in DC for National Police Week, May 9-15, 2004. National Police Week is a time for the law enforcement profession to remember and salute those officers who made the ultimate sacrifice and were killed in the line of duty. National Police Week includes a number of activities, highlighted by the 16th Annual Candlelight Vigil, which will be held on the evening of May 13, at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, located at Judiciary Square, in the 400 block of E Street, NW. A reading of the 362 names newly engraved on the Memorial immediately follows the ceremony. Other Police Week events include bicycle and motorcycle rides, wreath-laying ceremonies, the 10th annual Blue Mass (May 10th at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 10th and G Streets, NW), seminars conducted by Concerns of Police Survivors, and a Pipe Band March and Service.

WEAR YOUR BIKE HELMETS—IT'S THE LAW FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN DC

With warmer weather here, the National Safe Kids Campaign reminds us that motor vehicle collisions account for nearly 90 percent of all bicycle-related deaths in the US, and that in many of these cases the cyclist was not wearing a safety helmet. To help protect our young cyclists, DC has a law that requires those under the age of 16 to wear a helmet while cycling in the District. While penalties are waived on the first offense, second and subsequent offenses do carry a \$25 fine for the parent or legal guardian. And, for safety's sake, the MPDC encourages all cyclists—regardless of their age—to wear bicycle helmets and observe other safe cycling practices. Motorists, as well, are reminded to share the road with bicyclists and be courteous and careful.

NEWS & NOTES

MPDC Email Upgrade. The MPDC is upgrading its email system this weekend. As a result, Department members will be unable to send or receive emails between 6 pm on Friday, April 30 and 6 am on Tuesday, May 4. Anyone needing to communicate with MPDC members during this time should use other means such as fax. Once the new system is in place, the MPDC standard for email addresses will be firstname.lastname@dc.gov.

Arrest in Robbery Case. Earlier this week, a 17-year-old from Silver Spring, Md., was arrested for one of 18 possibly linked, armed robberies that occurred in various Northwest neighborhoods on April 5-6. The investigation is continuing, and detectives are asking anyone with information about this case to contact them. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2683>.

"Ask the Chief" on May 6. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues, and takes phone calls and emails, from 10–11 am on Thursday, May 6, during his monthly "Ask the Chief" program on WTOP radio at <http://www.wtop.com/?sid=120302&nid=323>.

Ward 8 Public Safety Meeting. Chief Ramsey and other MPDC officials will join Ward 8 Councilmember Sandy Allen for her Public Safety Meeting, May 5 at the Congress Heights United Methodist Church. Details at www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/ALLEN/CM%20web%20page/Upcoming%20events.htm.

① For more background on National Police Week and a complete schedule of events, visit the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's website at: www.nleomf.com

① The Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary will sponsor the 25th Annual Memorial Service for law enforcement officers from the region on May 11 at 11 am, at the memorial fountain outside MPDC Headquarters, which is named for Sgt. Henry J. Daly, himself killed in the line of duty on November 22, 1994. For info, call the Community Outreach Section at (202) 727-0783.

① For more information about DC's bicycle helmet law, and for links to a variety of bicycle safety sites, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/bikers.shtml>

① MPDC and DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) have teamed up to reduce bicycle-related injuries by distributing vouchers for free helmets to juveniles seen riding bicycles and not wearing helmets. Details at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/helmetdistr.shtml>

① Friday, May 7 is "Bike To Work Day" in the DC region. For details and to register online, go to: <http://www.mwccog.org/commuter/btwd04.html>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 4/30/04)

- 2004: 63
- 2003: 84
- % Change: -25.0%
- Closure Rate: 52.4% (33 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 4/24/04)

- Total: 748
- Drugs: 78
- Weapons: 9
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 14
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 22

Firearm Recoveries (as of 4/27/04)

- April: 120
- 2004 Total: 682

Traffic Fatalities (as of 4/30/04)

- 2004: 20
- 2003: 15
- % Change: +33.3%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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